

CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A composition for delivering an active substance to a nasal membrane, the composition comprising:

~~a minor effective amount of~~ an active substance comprising about 0.185 wt % to about 2.8 wt % ionizable zinc salt;

an agent to increase diffusion of the active substance through mucous in the nasal passage; and

about 75 wt % to about ~~99.999~~ 99.8 wt % carrier, the carrier comprising about 75 to about ~~99.999~~ 99 wt % water and a about 0.000001 % to about 5 wt% thickening agent selected from the group consisting of carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, hydroxycellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, and other carbohydrates.

12.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, wherein the carrier comprises purified water, glycerin, and the thickening agent,

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 14, wherein the thickening agent comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, wherein the active substance comprises zinc gluconate.

18. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, wherein the composition comprises less than about 1.5 ~~0.185 to about 2.8~~ wt % zinc gluconate.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, further comprising a permeation enhancer.

20.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a cold comprising administering the composition of claim 11 to a nasal membrane.

23. - 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) A system for applying a composition to a nasal membrane comprising an applicator and the composition according to claim 11.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, comprising about 0.9 to about 2.0 weight percent ionizable zinc salt.

44. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, comprising about 0.000001 to about 5 wt% ~~thickener~~ thickening agent.

45. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, comprising about 0.1 to about 3 wt% ~~thickener~~ thickening agent.

46. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, comprising about 0.000001 to about 5 wt% glycerin.

47. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, comprising about 4 to about 60 mM zinc ion.

48. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, comprising about 20 to about 44 mM zinc ion.

49. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the viscosity of the composition is between about 2,500 cp and about 40,000 cp.

50. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the viscosity of the composition is between about 5,000 cp and about 20,000 cp.